



# AN CANACH



## President's Quarterly Message—Louis Russell

From the President's Desk March 2024

Dear Society Members

A new year has started and we have completed the first quarter, already. As I lamented in the last letter, time just seems to continue speeding up! The first quarter of the year is always interesting. The excitement of the Holidays has passed, the cold of winter has set in and activities are more restricted to indoor events. However, some highlights of this season include attending Burns Night gatherings, watching the Super Bowl and College basketball's countdown to March Madness. In Iowa, the Boys High School Basketball tournament is held in early March in Des Moines and you can count on the last heavy snow fall during the tournament. I hope everyone is staying warm, preparing for the warmer weather and will be able to enjoy your local Scottish Games / Gatherings. One issue that the CHS Executive Committee identified was the number of our members that allow their membership to revert to Passive Status. To understand the reasons better, a survey was sent to members that allowed their status to revert to Passive during the past 5 years. We were pleased to receive 28 responses. In fact, a number of those responding agreed to renew their membership! The feedback provided insight into why they originally joined CHS and what they hoped to gain from membership. By far, the most important reasons for joining were because of a family tie to Henderson's and interest in their Genealogy/Henderson History. The An Canach, CHS website and Facebook page were all identified as important ways to stay connected to the Society. Many reasons were identified that resulted in a member reverting to Passive status. Three of the more commonly cited reasons were:

- A change in personal circumstances, including health issues.

- After learning (or not learning) what they wanted about their family history/genealogy they decided to not renew active membership.

- Membership renewal was difficult.

This feedback will help the Executive Committee redirect Society resources to address these issues by providing more support for these areas.

Addressing the difficulty of renewing annual membership, automatic renewal is now available! Difficulty in membership renewal was identified by 20% of respondents to the Passive Member survey as a reason for allowing their membership to become passive. Webmasters Taylor Ferranti and Katherine Emerson have been working diligently updating the membership renewal page on the CHS website to support automatic annual membership renewal. Bear in mind that I am of the old-school and prefer to pay my bills by writing a check and putting it in the mail. However, I can at-

Continues Page 2

test that navigating the membership renewal page was easy and I signed up for automatic annual renewal! Thank you, Taylor and Katherine, for your hard work!

The Scholarship Committee is in the midst of reviewing applications and identifying qualified individuals to award this year's scholarships. If you know a deserving student, please encourage them to complete the application and apply for a scholarship. The work of the Advancement Committee establishing an endowment fund will ensure continued success of the Scholarship program well into the future. On behalf of the Committee, please consider supporting this effort.

There is continued need to identify Regional Commissioners for the North East, Mid East and Great Lakes region. If you are in these regions, please consider supporting the Society by taking on this responsibility.

All for now. Thank you for your support of Clan Henderson Society.

Louis Russell  
President



**Brynn Brown, age 14 Premier Highland Dancer placed 3rd overall at the Central Florida Open Championship at the Orlando Highland Games.**

**She also placed 3rd overall in the Premiership the next day.**

**Congratulations and well done!**

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## Attention: Immediate Need for Regional Commissioners

Regional Commissioners (RC) are important positions within Clan Henderson. The RC is the leader of their region. They play an important role in ensuring effective communication, and they identify and insure CHS representation at Scottish events within their region. Regional RC's are voting members of the CHS Board establishing policy that affects CHS worldwide. An effective RC is one that is committed to fulfilling these responsibilities. Mark Henderson, VP Operations, leads monthly Zoom meetings with RC's facilitating an exchange of ideas and creating a forum for RC's to discuss challenges and to share successes. The goal of these meetings is to provide a support system that helping the RC to be successful, for example, allowing new RC's to learn from experienced RC's. A brief summary of the RC's responsibilities include:

RC have administrative responsibility including communications within the region with the objective of encouraging member involvement in Society and Scottish events.

RC is a voting member of the Executive Board.

RC are encouraged to provide articles to the An Canach.

RC may appoint assistants and other offices within the region to improve communication and member involvement.

RC are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Working with the Head of Bodyguards, RC may appoint regional Bodyguards.

RC will submit an annual budget to VP Operations.

Mary Lane Henderson is an effective RC in the Mid-South Region. Take time to read her comments outlining her thoughts about the role of an RC.

*A RC seeks ways to connect members. One way is to ask for Conveners for the Scottish Highland games where members can get to know each other while enjoying Scottish culture, arts and athletics. The RC should announce the upcoming events by email to the region. Emails are appreciated by all members, especially those who can't attend.*

*A RC will follow up on the reports from VP Members welcoming New Members and reaching out to those who recently became Passive.*

*The RC is responsible for nominating and submitting the applications to the Youth Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Many young people compete during the Games. This is a fun way to get to know and support the talented youth.*

*The RC should encourage the members to participate in the Genealogy Program. This is a Top of the Line program with leaders who can explain and help as you search your ancestry. Communication, Connecting the Clan Henderson family, and participation in Scottish events with your members are key.*

*Enjoy your Membership!*

*Mary Lane*

If you are in one of the open regions, please consider supporting your Society by becoming an RC. If you are interested, contact:

Louis Russell: [louis.russell@apcproteins.com](mailto:louis.russell@apcproteins.com) Or Mark Henderson: [kernal372@gmail.com](mailto:kernal372@gmail.com)

### **Youth Director Announcement:**

Clan Henderson has exciting news to bring to the Members regarding the Clan Henderson Website. There will be two new forms included on the CHS website under "Youth Spotlight, resources". (Both forms listed in order below) Clan Henderson will be providing a scholarship template for new Members who are applying for the 2024 scholarship year, to help guide you with your general information.

Great News! Clan Henderson has officially approved a youth media release form for those who are under the age of 18. Starting in January, parents will be encouraged to fill out this form and submit it, so your child can be appropriately recognized for their talents, scholarship awards, or general spotlights within the Clan Henderson community.

Thank you all, and happy scholarshiping!

Yours truly,



## Clan Henderson Youth Scholarship Application Form

### General Applicant Information

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan Henderson Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Current grade in school: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Scholarship:** Celtic Arts – Music – Highland Dance – Piping – Drumming – Athletics – Other

If 'Other' please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Level or Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Advancements/Exam/or Certifications earned: \_\_\_\_\_

### Name of Scottish School or Instructor

Name of teaching organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years teaching: \_\_\_\_\_

### Scholarship Financial Request

Program/school costs: \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly group lesson costs: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop costs: \_\_\_\_\_ Private lesson costs: \_\_\_\_\_

Total asking amount \$: \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of the scholarship recipient, funds may be mailed directly to the program/school/address of the instructor:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Official Web Address for accredited Program/School/Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Submissions to Suzanne or as directed on Clan Henderson's official website**

Suzanne Emerson

Email: [clanhendersonmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:clanhendersonmembership@yahoo.com)



## John & Nellie Lowry



It was with great honor to attend the 25th Scotsman's Ball March 9th, 2024, at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach , CA where John & Nellie were bestowed the honor of receiving the Albannach Mor Award . My wife Danielle and I were in attendance for this Honor representing Clan Henderson Society .

John & Nellie have been involved in Scottish Societies for decades where John serves as the President of the House of Gordon USA and treasurer of Clan Maclaren Society . Nellie has been serving as Clan Graham Genealogist for over 30 years . Both are distinguished members of Clan Henderson Society since 1990 and have most recently received the "Order of the Chiefs " Prize from Clan Henderson Society . "Seaside Highland Games " Ventura, CA.



Beyond all odds when games had been closing down in the early 2000's in Southern California , this amazing couple started out on an adventure to see if they could find a location and venue to host a Highland Games with a few other friends within the Scottish Society of California . Through all of trials of tribulation and no funding to start this venture they persevered and Hosted the First Seaside Highland Games some 20 years ago in October of 2003 where they see nearly, if not over 25,000 attendees . John serves as the Games Chief and Nellie serves as the games Treasurer.

One of Nellie's favorite memories as she tells me was welcoming our Chief Alistair D. Henderson and the Clan Henderson Society members for the 2006 AGM and her hopes are the AGM will return to Seaside . Nellie also reserves a special spot for Clan Henderson conveners every year.



## Christian Henderson



Danielle and Christian Henderson

Clan Henderson Society South Pacific Regional Commissioner  
Clan Henderson California Convener  
Clan Henderson California Bodyguard



*Celebrating 40 Years*

The 41st Anniversary of the  
Hawaiian Scottish Festival and  
Highland Games will take place  
Saturday, April 6 and Sunday,  
April 7 from 9:00am - 4:00pm at  
Jefferson Elementary in Waikiki.

#### AN CANACH DEADLINES FOR 2024

<b>Publish by:</b>	<b><u>Deadline to Editor</u></b>
<b>June 3</b>	<b>May 15</b>
<b>September 2</b>	<b>August 15</b>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>November 15</b>

Please send to  
**[hendersonclannews@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonclannews@gmail.com)**

**At any time.**

**If you are late please let me know how much space (# words and pictures)  
you will need and I will try to plan accordingly.**

**Thanks to all Aye,  
Lawrence Henderson, An Canach Editor**

## Scholarship News

I would like to take a minute to remind members who are interested in applying for scholarships for the 2024 season that submissions start January 1st, and close on April 1st. This is a great opportunity for Clan Henderson Members seeking a scholarship in the Celtic Arts. I would also like to take a minute to introduce you to the members who are serving on the scholarship committee this year.

Active serving scholarship committee Members 2024:

Lane Hicks, Jan Burdette, Graeme Dodworth, and Audrey Trawick.

Jan Burdette: (No photo submitted)

I have a passion for music and singing! I enjoy my church choir and have always enjoyed singing! I hope my impact on these talented CHS youth members shows support and encourages each one to strive to do their best in their personal field of interest. I enjoy serving on the scholarship committee and rewarding the youth as a form of encouragement for their dedication. Grandfather Mountain Highland Games is my favorite event to attend! It's a beautiful venue with highland dancing, piping, athletics, and convening throughout the day with my sister, MaryLane Henderson!

Graeme Dodworth:



Certainly, bagpiping is one passion of mine, but I also enjoy playing ice hockey. I play on two different adult league teams in the DC Metro area. It's probably no coincidence that I found my passion for bagpipes and ice hockey because of the time I spent in Canada as a kid and over the years. As a highland piper myself, of course I would like to support piping and aspiring pipers while serving on the CHS scholarship committee. But more broadly, I enjoy all of the Scottish arts typically found at Scottish games and festivals. The rich variety is what makes these festivals so much fun to attend. There seems to be something there for everyone. Ultimately, I hope to enlarge the pool and quality of performing talent we have in the CHS and see the CHS recognized for its support of the Scottish performing arts. I hope to see some of our performers winning regional and national competitions helped by the scholarships we provided. I haven't been to many CHS events since joining last summer. I would have to say I really enjoyed the Virginia Scottish Games festival, in The Plains, VA, in spite of how hot it was that day. That is where I was duly welcomed into the Clan as its

piper by Mark Henderson during the haggis supper that followed the games. Certainly, so far, my favorite event was the Scottish Christmas Walk in Old Town Alexandria, VA, this year, where I played the CHS down familiar streets of Old Town Alexandria in a festive holiday atmosphere. I highly recommend this event to anyone who cherishes the holiday spirit.

Audrey Trawick:



I have a passion for international cooking and art, equally as much as I do for Highland Dancing, Teaching, and performing. I hope that with my impact by serving on the scholarship committee, as well as Youth Director for Clan Henderson, that I help grow the Celtic Arts on a worldwide level. One of the most favorite and memorable Highland Games is the Loch Norman Highland Games. I had the opportunity to meet a lot of the Hosting Members, and I learned so much about the History of Clan Henderson while in attendance.

Clan Henderson Youth Director & Scholarship committee Member.



## **Announcement - Central Regional Commissioner**

**I am pleased to make the following announcements.**

**After serving as the Regional Commissioner of the Central region, Laura Petry has decided to step down.**

**Laura's service to the Society is appreciated by all. Laura has agreed to assist in the transition to new leadership.**

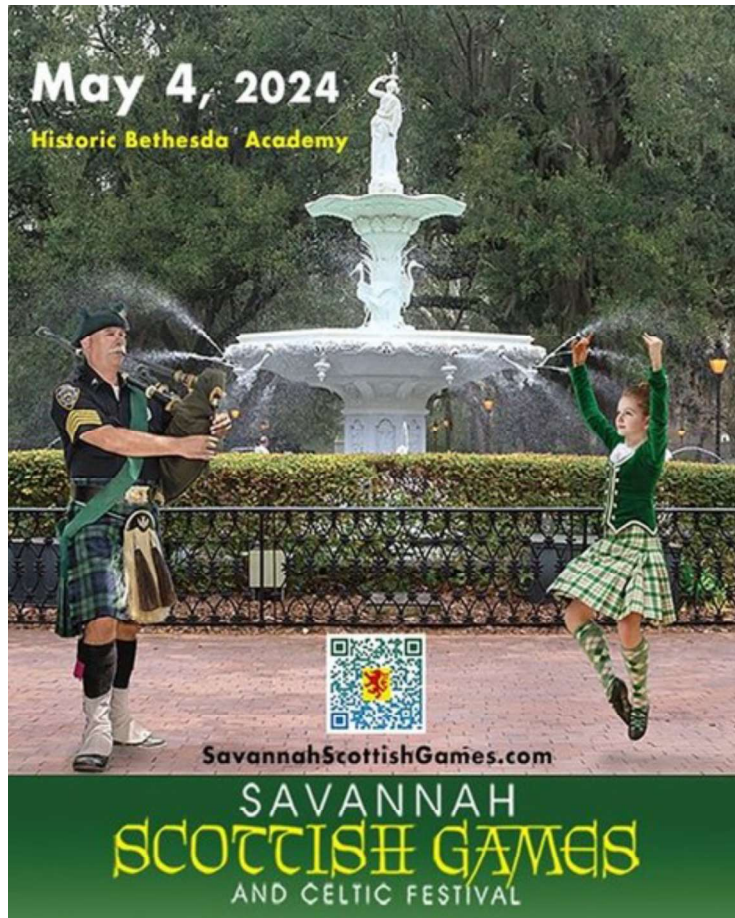
**Bill Scougal has agreed to accept the position as Regional Commissioner of the Central region. Bill joined Clan Henderson many years ago being member #333! Bill resides in N. Central Missouri and is an active convener.**

**Join me in expressing appreciation for both Laura and Bill's contribution to Clan Henderson.**

**Mòran taing (Many thanks),**

**Louis Russell  
President  
Clan Henderson Society  
[clanhendersonsociety.com](http://clanhendersonsociety.com)**





## Scottish Games & Cultural Festival, for 2024

**The Hendersons will be there! Leon and Ann Hicks are convening!**

**Join Clan Henderson Society in Blairsville, Ga.! Harry and Suzanne Keifer are convening!**





## Scottish Games & Cultural Festival, for 2024



Shadow Bay  
**CELTIC FESTIVAL  
& Highland Games**



**April 27th 2024**

Live Celtic Music  
Workshops  
Drumming  
Bonfire  
Celtic Dancing  
Local Artists  
Flower, Herb &  
Food Vendors

**Maypole Dance**  
Much More...

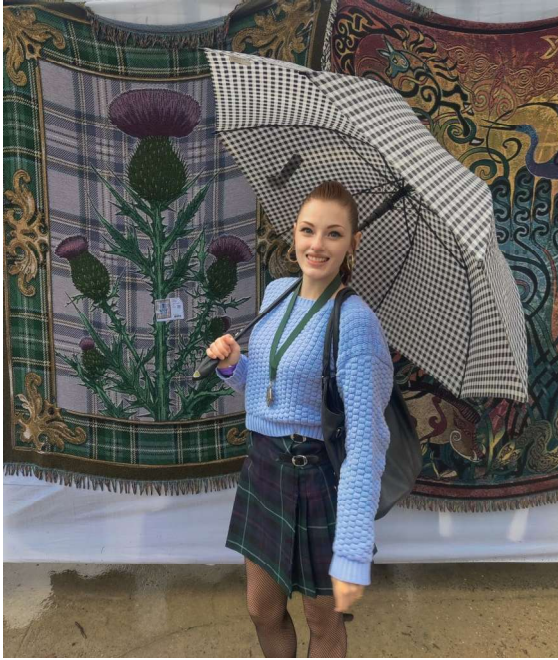
1pm-9pm  
Adults \$12  
Kids 4-11 \$6  
(cash only at the gate)

Proceeds go to: 

RH Acres Socastee Blvd: Myrtle Beach SC 29588  
mmfvendors@gmail.com | MythicalMedievalFest.com  
843-360-9052

## Henderson Clan Youth Director Activities

*Audrey Hardwick*



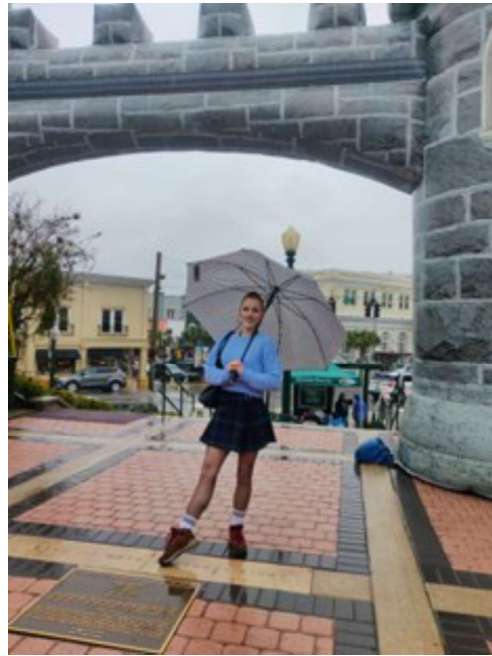
**Clan Henderson's Youth Director Audrey Trawick** was in attendance at the **Florida Mt. Dora Highland Games** this past February.

It was a rainy event but that didn't stop her from mingling with the crowd to share the importance of Scottish culture

and chat with the locals about her volunteer position within Clan Henderson, and what Clan Henderson has to offer to it's members.

**Audrey Trawick said, "Mount Dora is a beautiful quaint little town bursting with interest and love of Scottish music, art, and history. There were both Scottish and Irish dancers performing in the main hall, and a competition in the heavy athletics on the main field."**

In Audrey's report she said, "I believe we had several Clan Henderson members perform and dance at the event. There were a lot of umbrellas bobbing around through the event and it was hard to catch them. However, I would like to thank them for attending and representing their dance school as well as the Clan Henderson Society."





**Scottish Games & Cultural Festival, for 2024**

MYSTICHIGHLANDGAMES.COM

**MYSTIC  
HIGHLAND GAMES**

**March 23, 2024 ~ Durham, NC**

Presented by the Scottish Cultural  
Organization of the Triangle



SAVANNAH  
**SCOTTISH GAMES**  
AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

**May 4, 2024**

**BETHESDA ACADEMY**





**The Henderson's were there on March 2 –3  
2024.**

**Lance Henderson said, Phoenix was awesome !**

**Patti Henderson said, it was great! Wonderful  
meeting everyone!!!!**

President Louis Russell, and Clan Hendersons Youth Director Audrey Trawick, attended the Phoenix Arizona Highland Games this past weekend.

It was a lovely weekend of piping, drumming, highland athletics, dancing, vendors, and cultural connections with the locals in the South-West region.

There were many visits from the members at the Clan tent, as Clan Henderson Society was beaming with enthusiasm in support of this event!



## Additional pic from the Phoenix games.

It was wonderful that the Louis Russell, President and the Audrey Trawick, new Youth Director (Picture below on right) was able to meet in person at the games, both in attendance to support the growth and awareness for Scottish heritage and for the arts.

Good pictures of David Henderson, his wife and children. They were there during the weekend



and helped at the tent. His boys name is Connor, Daughter Skylar, and Wife Adrianna . David said they really enjoyed themselves





**The Florida Celtic Family Jamboree** was celebrated this past February in the beautiful forested area of **Brooksville Florida.**

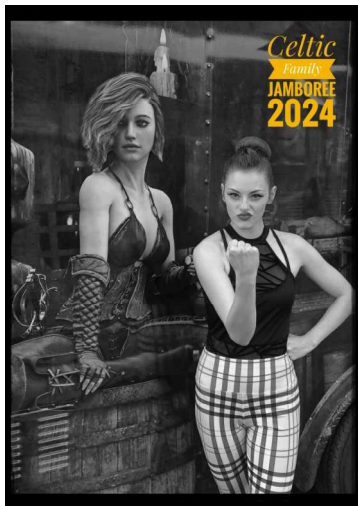
What a wonderful family event!!! Live music, bands, Celtic vendors, dancing and piping workshops, family camping, and heavy athletics exhibitions where everyone was welcome to learn the art of caber tossing!!!

**Clan Henderson Youth Director, Audrey Trawick** was in attendance for her second year as a guest performer and dancer.

Audrey delighted the group with her knowledge of the history of Scottish dance and performed several choreographed pieces with the help of Sarasota's New World Celts founder and piper Bill Howard. These two enjoy educating adults as well as the youth regarding the history of Scottish dance and bagpipes, and often offer community support to one another whenever their schedules align.

It was a successful event as our Youth Director made multiple scholarships contacts with the heavy athletics team and even gave a valiant effort experiencing the Caber Toss for the first time!!!

**Fun was definitely had by all!**



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	<p><i>Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson</i> Alistair D. Henderson of Fordell PO Box 3070, Stafford DC QLD 4053, Australia chief@fordell.email</p> <p><i>Chancellor</i> C. Fred Sanford, FSA Scot 520 Dogwood Road Statesville, NC 28677 704-875-6284 cbsenhd@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Kinsaid</i> Iain M. Henderson Younger of Fordell Brisbane, Australia</p> <p><i>Clan Henderson</i> PE, FSA Scot 1013 Traders Trail Wake Forest, NC 27587 919-566-6345 killedgimaj@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Clan Henderson Society, Inc., is a member of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.</p>		

## A Message of Unity from the Chaplain of the Scottish Clan Henderson Society



Dear Members of the Scottish Clan Henderson Society,

As we gather in the midst of a tumultuous year marked by conflicts, arguments, and the echoes of political tensions, I am reminded of the words of Jesus Christ, who spoke of the interconnectedness of all humanity. In these divisive times, it is crucial for us to remember our shared humanity and the values that bind us together as a clan.

Election years often bring with them heightened emotions and passionate debates. It is natural for individuals to hold differing opinions and beliefs, but it is imperative that we engage in respectful discourse and seek common ground. Regardless of our political affiliations, we must remember that we are all members of the same society, and our collective well-being depends on our ability to work together towards common goals. Clan Henderson Society members have an opportunity to bring family, friends, and neighbors together and listen to each other especially this year.

Religious divisiveness continues to be a source of tension in our society. However, it is essential to recognize that true faith transcends religious boundaries. Jesus himself taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, regardless of their religious beliefs.

At the heart of our faith is the principle of connectedness—the idea that we are all part of a larger, interconnected web of humanity. Just as Jesus spoke of the importance of loving our neighbors, regardless of their background or beliefs, so too must we strive to embody this message in our interactions with others.

My vision for Clan Henderson is to have a Chaplain Corp. Each region will have one or two chaplains to offer spiritual guidance and support to all members of our clan. As chaplains of the Scottish Clan Henderson Society, our mission is to care for all people, regardless of their religious background or political beliefs. In times of uncertainty and division, let us be beacons of hope and unity, shining light into the darkness and extending a hand of compassion to all who are in need.

Together, let us work towards building a more inclusive and compassionate society, where the bonds of kinship and shared humanity transcend the barriers that seek to divide us.

With warm regards,

Dr. Daniel Henderson, Chaplain, Scottish Clan Henderson Society

# CHS Leader Roster

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a two ( 2 ) year term. Currently 2023 & 2024

Position	Mem #	Last	First	City	ST	
President	4511	Russell	Louis	Ankeny	IA	
Past President	1644	HICKS	Leon	Southport	NC	
Recording Secretary	586	HOFFMAN	Sue	Mabank	TX	
Treasurer	3048	MARTIN	Carol	Clarksburg	MA	
VP-Genealogy	4549	HENDERSON	LaRhee	Des Moines	IA	
VP-General Counsel	3507	HENDERSON II	Vincent	Little Rock	AR	
VP-Members	1125	EMERSON	Suzanne	San Carlos	CA	
VP-Operations	3600	HENDERSON	Mark	Waynesboro	VA	


## REGIONAL COMMISSIONER (RC)



RCs are commisioned by the High Commissioner & Chieftain. An RC serves until he/she resigns or is released of his/her commission.

Position	Mem #	Last	First	City	ST	Region
Central		Vacant				IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, SD
Far South	2185	HENDRICKS	Linda	Oklahoma City	OK	AR, OK, TX
Great Lakes		Vacant				IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
Mid East		Vacant				DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV
Mid South	4,826	OWENS	Eric S.	Nashville	TN	AL, LA, KY, MS, TN
North East		Vacant				CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT
North Pacific	4196	HENDERSON	Joyce	East Helena	MT	AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
Oceania (AUS-NZ)	4405	HENDERSON	Jeff	Mount Evelyn	VIC	Australia
Scotland (UK)		Vacant				Great Britian, Ireland, NL, Belgium
South East	4166	HENDERSON	Mary Lane	Cross Hillt	SC	FL, GA, NC, SC
South Pacific	4737	HENDERSON	Christian	Murrieta	CA	CA, HI, NV
South West	911	HESTON	Christi A.	Ft. Collins	CO	AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY

## OES DANA

Oes Dana is a collective group of specialists who fill vital roles within the Society. They are appointed by the CHS President and serve at his/her pleasure.

Position	Mem #	Last	First	City	ST	
Captain of the Body Guard	386	KEIFER	Harry J.	Lilburn	GA	
Chair, Awards	3600	HENDERSON	Mark	Waynesboro	VA	
Chair, Nominations	2,739	SANFORD	Margaret	Statesville	NC	
Chair, Scholarships	5,368	TRAWICK	Audrey	New Port Richey	FL	

Chief of Chaplains	4,874	HENDERSON	Dr. Daniel Charles	Leesburg	FL	
Director, Athletics		Vacant				
Director, Communications	3,946	ERICKSON	Eric A.	Bozeman	MT	
Director, Development	5247	HENDERSON	Christina	Summerville	SC	
Director, DNA Admin	3725	HENDERSON	David	Hanover	NH	
Director, Events Admin	5,013	BEIROA	Loiso	Santiago de Compestela	ESP	
Director, Youth Activities	5368	TRAWICK	Audrey	New Port Richey	FL	
DNA & Genealogy Coordinator	4227	ROWAN	Tracy	Stewartstown	PA	
Editor, An Canach	4,738	HENDERSON	Lawrence	Ranch Cucamonga	CA	
Historian		Vacant				
Piper	5426	DODWORTH	Graeme	Falls Church	VA	<p><b>Fordell Castle</b></p>
Quartermaster (QM)	4,304	GERMAN	Laura	Bethany	OK	
Webmaster	5367	FERRANTI	Taylor Henderson	Hulbert	OK	



## *Flowers of the Forest*



Marian Henderson Leslie, 88, died in Madison, Georgia on Sunday, January 22, 2024. Marian was born on October 29, 1934, in Gwinnett County, Georgia, and grew up in Grayson, the daughter of Marion Perry Henderson and Rubye Bell Durden Henderson. She graduated from Grayson High School in 1951 and the Emory University School of Nursing in 1956. In 1957 she married Donald William Leslie, the love of her life. They settled in Dunwoody, Georgia, and later moved to Alpharetta, then to Abbeville, South Carolina, and finally to Madison, Georgia.



Marian had a long career in nursing working as a Registered Nurse in various settings, including care for disabled children and maternity care. Later in life, she investigated Workers Compensation claims. She made friends wherever she went and had an outsized impact on her patients.

Throughout her life, Marian was a dedicated member of her community and passionate volunteer, active in a variety of philanthropic causes. She especially enjoyed her work at the Abbeville Opera House, the Abbeville Visitor's Center, the Abbeville Garden Club, the Abbeville Area Medical Center, the Abbeville Detention Center, the McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House and the New Hope Presbyterian Church's "Sharing and Caring" team. She was also active in the Scottish Clan Henderson and Clan Leslie Societies and attended many Leslie family events and reunions with husband Don. Marian was a renowned hostess who loved to entertain, as well as an avid cook and wedding cake maker. She was also an enthusiastic bird watcher, especially fond of hummingbirds, and a fan of classical music and opera. But her greatest joy came from doting on her many friends and family and making everyone feel welcome in her home.

Marian is survived by her brother-in-law Jimmy Williams; sister-in-law Jane Leslie; daughter Susan Leslie Vaughn; grandchildren Allison Vaughn (Clark) Candler and Audrey Vaughn; daughter-in-law Mary Leslie (Richard) Hartman; nephew Brian Henderson and nieces Keely Henderson (JT) Compton, Anne (Mike) Alley, Leslie (Bud) Hicklin, Laura

Williams, Lucy (Ed) Nelson, Jeanne Williams; great-grandsons Clark and Griffin Candler; trusted caregiver and friend Gwen Swain; and Marian's beloved cat, Godfather. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Don, and sons Donald William "Bo" Leslie, Jr. and Henry Miller "Hank" Leslie, as well as her brother William Grady Henderson.

Marian's husband also served as Commissioner for Clan Leslie. She loved Clan Henderson. Marian and Don attended many of the festivals!



## Flowers of the Forest continues

### It's Amazing How Much Noise One Old Lady Can Make A Remembrance of Dorothy Ann Henderson, 1925 to 2023 By Stuart Henderson Ballatt



When Auntie passed, I was struck by how quiet the house was. It felt empty. Dark when you came home from work. Cognizant of her absence one day, I literally thought to myself, “how could one old lady have made so much noise.”

I realize now that the noise was the result of Auntie enjoying life. She was fascinated by everything, and I literally mean everything. There is an entire room downstairs filled with boxes, photographs, filing cabinets, and computers – all of which she out-lived – in which are the things in life that she found interesting and important... filed perfectly in her crazy version of the Dewey Decimal System. This was her first passion – learning and experiencing everything in life that she could put her hands on, turning it into a scrap of paper or a memento of some sort, and then filing it in her personal library that she was quite sure the great powers of the world would someday seek out.

In an odd way, in her Librarian's eyes, it all has equal weight. Pictures from every birthday celebration that she'd ever been to. Levenger office supply catalogs. Programs from charity dinners she attended. Junk mail from Publishers Clearing House that she hasn't had time to read yet. Blank order forms for the 1860 Census. Frank Byer's canceled checks. And also, Frank Byer. Handwritten lists of furniture she purchased in 1968. Copies of Clan Henderson Society's *An Canach*, for which she wrote quite a few articles. Copies of “The Best and Worst Pills Newsletter” – yes, that is a real thing. And of course, anything that she ever owned that had anything at all to do with the Bronx. It was all interesting to her, it was all equally cherished, and it was all categorized, catalogued and lovingly filed and tended to for 98 years. In the recent quiet, I realize that Auntie has so many files, in part, because she's done so much living.

A graduate of Hunter College at the age of about 19. She worked for the U.S. Government during World War 2, translating maps from all over Europe and then reproducing them in English on silk for U.S. Airmen to take on missions. Dancing with American and Allied servicemen at the famous Stage Door Canteen in New York's Broadway theatre district. Travelling throughout Europe, Japan, China, Africa, and, of course, extensively in the Caribbean. The proud Head Librarian of the New York Public Library's Westchester Square Branch, where she helped many learn to read and to conduct research, and also helped quite a few less fortunate neighbors take a warm rest for a little while in winter. She volunteered for many charitable organizations, closest to her heart I believe were the Citizens Advice Bureau and Bronx Rotary.

Some of my earliest memories are of days and nights I spent with Auntie in the Bronx. Playing on the balcony, in the hallways and on the playground of her apartment building. Having lunches with her friends. Visiting museums, playing records, and listening to Frank talk about jazz and baseball. We were in and out of the Bronx from New Jersey once or twice a week for most of my early childhood. Eventually, Auntie moved out of the Bronx. In fact, we moved Auntie three times over the course of her life... and you know what we had to move the most... files! Yup, true story.

Auntie thrived in life, but she also survived. She survived the challenges of poverty that most immigrant New Yorkers felt during the Depression. She survived the racism that was common in her day. In New York's tougher times, she survived the junkies that used to congregate around the library entrance so they could sneak in to use the bathroom. Auntie survived quite a few significant illnesses, including breast cancer, and two strokes. Despite the odds, she just kept living.

When age finally started doing its worst, both Mom and Auntie came to live with us in Mountainside. And the truth is that no one was there for them more than Meghan. Meghan was their constant companion and caretaker. And I am so grateful for the love, and the kindness, and the sacrifices Meg made to make sure they were cared for.

After mom died, we all moved to Maryland. The move made my commute livable, and gave us a chance to be closer to the Purtell side of the family.

It took a while for Auntie to get used to living in Maryland. She kept to herself a bit, futzing in her office. Unless she was going out, she stopped wearing shoes altogether. She loved those socks with the grips on the bottom. She moved like a giant cat. Completely silent. She was so quiet she'd literally be two feet away from you before you noticed and jumped out of your skin. These sneak attacks were so bad we eventually told her she had to start announcing herself when she entered a room. So she started creeping up behind us until she got about 6 feet away, and then she'd raise her arm, wave and yell, “here I am!” Right about then is when it really started getting loud in the house.

Not only were the kids and their activities expanding, so were Auntie's. Doctor visits. Hair salons. Nail salons. A weekly drive with Scott to sightsee, visit Staples for office supplies, and get a milkshake. And then at home: visiting nurses, home health aides, speech therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists. Frederick's finest medical care coming to see her... and she loved it! There are few things Auntie loves more than a good medical visit.

Auntie's strength grew and she started to work toward finishing the book about her grandfather. So we hired two lovely women who worked part time as Writer's Aids for Auntie, helping her do research, send packages, write emails, and of course... file the papers! For years, I never came home to a house that didn't have a relative stranger inside doing something with Auntie. It was worth it.

Now of course, the biggest part of Auntie's remaining files are the personal accounts, histories and DNA results of about 9 generations of Hendersons. That is a lot of Cruzans!

I think Auntie's, proudest and most life-altering moment (the opportunity to meet Skip Gates notwithstanding) must be said to be the never-ending discovery of Alexander Henderson! Though she never met him, Auntie dedicated some 30 years of her life pursuing the genealogical research and documentation of Alexander, his forebears and his descendants. This is what she did for the last 10 or so years with us. She researched, annotated, reconstructed and published Alexander's memoir at the age of 92. And at age 96, she published her own memoir about growing up with her family in the Bronx.

She had many more stories she wanted to tell. It frustrated her to no end that she just didn't have the strength to do any more. She hoped to tell the story of Bedloe's Island in the Hudson River, which she was convinced our family owned and which now is home to the Statue of Liberty. I think she thought that if she couldn't get it back, at least they'd give us a plaque or some kind of recognition. She was also excited to explore an unnamed relative, at least I don't recall that there was a name yet discovered, but apparently, he was instrumental in the plotting and assassination of Abraham Lincoln. We humbly suggested to Auntie, maybe that was one we really didn't need to publicize.

But Alexander Henderson's is indeed a great story – a black Cruzan who makes his way to New York City and joins the US Navy to fight in the Civil War. I'm glad she never gave up on that one.

I owe Alexander, my great grandfather, a debt of immense gratitude. I'm very lucky to have been born into the Henderson clan. My mother and her sister are two of the most intelligent people I'll ever know. Both with great passions, and great accomplishments. Neither allowed themselves to be constrained by the social constructs of their era. Both gave back to their communities unflinchingly, with commitment and humility. They gave their time and treasure, their empathy, and their enthusiasm for life. In short, they made a lot of noise.

###



## *Welcome New Clan Henderson Society Members*

**Suzanne Henderson Emerson, Vice President of Members Announces the new Members for this issue of An Canach.**

Oceania	BRANLEY	Julie	Ardross	WA	AUSTRALIA			
South East	LESSIN	Kira	Palm City	FL	USA			
South East	HENDERSON	John	North Charleston	SC	USA			
South East	HENDERSON	Josh	Goose Creek	SC	USA			
South East	CRIBBS	William	Charleston	SC	USA			
South East	LANGSTON-JORDON	Diane	North Charleston	SC	USA			
South East	PARDEE	Troy	Charleston	SC	USA			
South East	McCOOEY	Linda	Navarre	FL	USA			
South East	YONCE	Jason	Andrews	NC	USA			
North Pacific	HENDERSON	Mark	Bellingham	WA	USA			
Mid East	HENDERSON	Carter	Henrico	VA	USA			
Mid East	HENDERSON	Stuart	Frederick	MD	USA			
Mid East	CLONTS	Kristina	Chesapeake	VA	USA			
Mid East	HENDERSON	Carter	Henrico	VA	USA			
Far South	SCHULTZ	Ashley	Clinton	OK	USA			
Far South	CLEMMONS	James	Midwest City	OK	USA			
Far South	MALLETTE	Ellen	Midwest City	OK	USA			
Far South	JENSEN	Brian	Broken Arrow	OK	USA			
Far South	WILLIAMS	Dymra	Henderson	Friendswood	TX	USA		
Far South	McMORRIS	Jennifer	Yukon	OK	USA			
Far South	McMORRIS	Patrick	Yukon	OK	USA			
Far South	BISHOP	Joan	McKinney	TX	USA			
South Pacific	KONCZ	Louis	Temecula	CA	USA			
Independent	MRACEK	William	Chase	BC	CAN	USA		

**A very hardy Clan Henderson welcome to all of you!**

# Congratulations Longevity Recognition Pin Recipients!

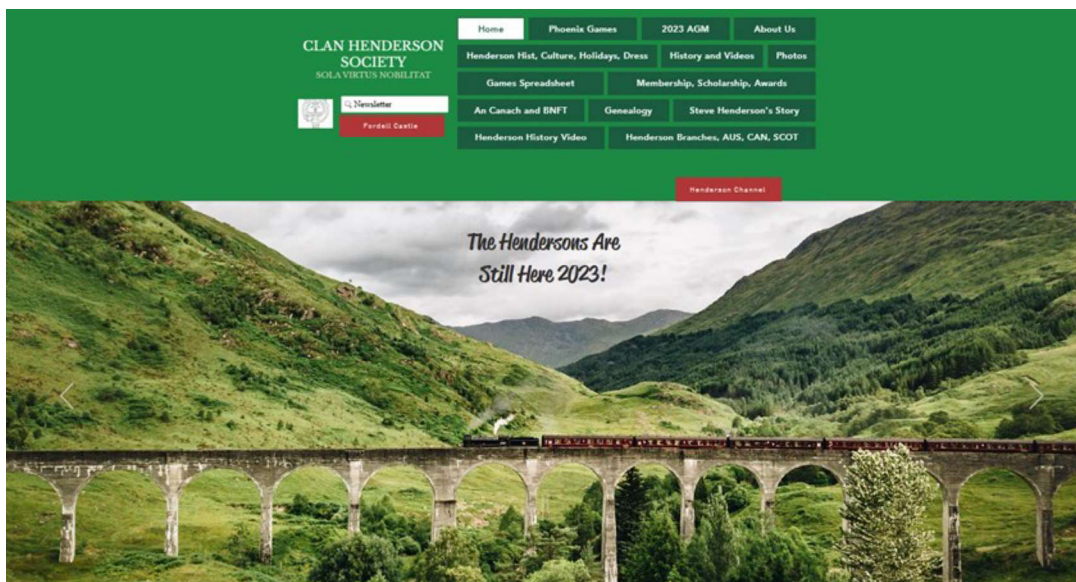
Region	Last Name	First Name	State	Year
Central	HENDERSON	Keith M.	MO	5
Far South	McHENRY	Robert	TX	5
Far South	HENDREX	Ralph	OK	5
Mid East	HENDERSON	Russel	VA	5
Mid East	HENDERSON	Kevin	VA	5
Mid South	OWENS	Eric	TN	5
Mid South	HENDERSON	Dr. Mark	MS	5
South East	HENDERSON	Glen	GA	5
South East	GUAGLIANO	Sheila C.	NC	5
South East	HILL	Reginald D.	NC	5
South East	HUFTON	Robin	NC	15
South Pacific	SCHUH	Jeffrey	CA	15
Far South	HESTON	Patrick A.	OK	25
Far South	HENDRICKS	Linda D.	OK	25
Mid East	ELLETT, Jr.	James Henderson	VA	25
South East	CHESHIRE	Patricia F.	FL	25
South East	RANDALL	Frances E.	NC	25
South East	HENDERSON	Jr. Dr. John	FL	25

# CONGRATULATIONS

How small dogs view  
themselves when the  
doorbell rings 💪



**Visit the Clan Henderson Website!**  
**[clanhendersonsociety.com](http://clanhendersonsociety.com)**





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